

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) A device that logically groups a first and a second Media Gateway, said device comprising:

a first receiving means for receiving a MGC message;

memory means for storing said MGC message, said MGC message corresponding to an address of either one of said two Media Gateways;

locating means for locating in said memory means said address of ~~a said~~ of either one of said two Media Gateways; and

a second receiving means for receiving said address of said Media Gateway, and forming a message using said address.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The device of claim 2 wherein said message includes a transaction conforming to a media gateway protocol.

5. (previously presented) The device of claim 4 wherein said protocol is MEGACO.

6. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 wherein said message comprises a sub-command, an attribute, and a virtual destination address.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A method of transmitting messages, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message, said message including an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

storing in memory said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of a plurality of gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

finding in said memory said address of a selected one of said gateways using said destination address and said attribute; and

receiving the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forming a unique message for each of said sub-commands, said addresses, and said attributes.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 comprising the further steps of:

receiving replies from said plurality of gateways, each of said replies including the transaction completion of selected one of said sub-commands;

determining if said replies include all of said transaction completions; and

transmitting a message when all replies have been received.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said messages conform to a Media Gateway protocol.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said protocol is MEGACO.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said destination address is the address of a virtual Gateway.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A device for transmitting messages comprising:
a first receiver that receives a message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;
a memory that stores said message and said attribute, said attribute corresponding to a Media Gateway having an address;
a locator that finds in said memory said address of a said Media Gateway; and
a second receiver that receives the address of said Media Gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forms messages.

15. (previously presented) A network comprising:

a Media Gateway Controller (MGC);

a Media Gateway proxy, said proxy coupled to said MGC and comprising:

a first receiver that receives a message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

a memory, coupled to said first receiver, that stores said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

a locator, coupled to said memory, that finds in said memory said address of a said selected Media Gateway using said destination address and said attribute; and

a second receiver, coupled to said locator, that receives the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forms messages using said sub-command, said address, and said attribute; and

a plurality of Media Gateways coupled to said Media Gateway proxy.

16. (cancelled)